

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, Illinois, on the 50th Anniversary of this educational institution.

Discussion and planning for a college began in 1959. At that time, the State of Illinois rejected the plans, but a review was granted. The Harrisburg High School Board of Trustees created an advisory committee to help found the college. On June 21, 1960, a public vote was taken and over 93 percent of the more than 2,500 voters were in favor of the college. In September 1960 the name Southeastern Illinois College was officially adopted.

Instruction at the college began on September 11, 1961 with 314 students enrolled. The classes were conducted in a wing of Harrisburg Township High School. In 1965 the Illinois Junior College Act passed, and Southeastern officially became a Class II Junior College. In 1967 a referendum to become a Class I college carried, and the district was expanded to include five counties.

In 1968 the first Board of Trustees was elected and assumed governance of the college. The first President, Mr. Joe Deaton, was appointed. In 1976 the college was granted full accreditation by North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Also that year, the permanent facilities, still in use today, were completed and occupied.

Today, Southeastern Illinois College provides educational opportunities to a number of high school graduates and those returning to school in an ever expanding campus. I am please to congratulate this fine institution on 50 years of success. I look forward to the bright future in store for Southeastern Illinois College.

CONGRATULATING LOGISTICS HEALTH INCORPORATED FOR RECEIVING THE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logistics Health Incorporated for receiving the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Logistics Health, based in La Crosse, Wisconsin, joined 14 other employers across the country in being recognized for their outstanding support of employees who serve in the Guard and the Reserves.

For many years, our Guard and Reserve forces were seen as a "force of last resort," but recent conflicts have demonstrated just how vital the Guard and Reserves are on a day-to-day basis. In fact, since 2001, more than 775,000 members of the Guard and the Reserves have been activated for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. These families have gone through enormous sacrifice to

serve their country and too many have given the ultimate sacrifice. We as a nation will be forever grateful to them for their contributions.

As an employer, Logistics Health has gone above and beyond the call of duty in assuring our Guard and Reserve servicemembers that they don't have to worry about their jobs back home. Logistics Health ensures that Guard and Reserve servicemembers won't lose their seniority, salary, and benefits while they are serving their country.

Logistics Health also regularly sends care packages, letters, and emails to its service-member employees, sponsors community events and fundraisers for care package drives for the military as a whole. Logistics Health has contributed \$120,000 to military support organizations and fundraisers.

For its patriotic commitment to the Guard and the Reserves, earlier this year Logistics Health won Wisconsin's "Above and Beyond" award and received the state's "Pro Patria" award.

Employers across the nation should take a close look at the good work Logistics Health and others are doing in providing members of the Guard and the Reserves with the flexibility they need when they leave to serve their country and for when they come back ready to resume civilian life.

CONCERNING FLOOD ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the people of Pakistan who have been affected by the catastrophic flooding this monsoon season. As reports continue to emerge detailing ever-increasing numbers of displaced families and deaths, I want to express my deepest sympathy for the victims of this tragedy.

Estimates indicate that over 20 million people are affected by the flooding and over 1,600 have died. In addition, almost 900,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged. According to the UN, millions of people went unaided in the days and weeks after the flooding began. We must also remember that even after the waters recede, the lack of shelter, food, and clean water may bring ongoing suffering. And as croplands and farming equipment are destroyed, the threat of future famine looms.

The devastation these floods have wrought is widespread and affects people in multiple Pakistani provinces. In the Sindh province alone, estimates from August 10th indicate that 1.4 million people and 2,534 villages have been affected by the floods, and as of August 18th new flood warnings continue to be issued. Through communications with the Sindh-American community over the past year, I have learned of the challenges that the Sindh and other provinces face. These floods have exacerbated the situation. We must ensure that our relief efforts reach all affected people and do not inadvertently neglect the individual regions.

The U.S. has responded rapidly trying to provide relief assistance, and it is my hope that our efforts will continue to ensure that the

death and disease tolls do not rise as winter approaches. Through September 14th, total U.S. government assistance reached over \$300 million. Much of the assistance provided by the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development has been distributed in partnership with several international agencies including the United Nations and the Red Cross.

While the U.S. continues to play a leadership role in the global effort to assist the people of Pakistan in this difficult time, it is my sincere hope that our efforts reach all those affected by this tragedy. I raise this concern in light of troubling reports that followed the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir. Even one year after that devastating event, Oxfam reported that administrative bottlenecks and corruption had stymied progress toward reconstruction. We must ensure that such an occurrence is not repeated.

Last year, Congress passed The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 which is now public law. Title III of this legislation was written to ensure that U.S. assistance reaches all the people of Pakistan fairly and equitably. I wish to reiterate the concerns that prompted this title and to urge the agencies spearheading our relief efforts to follow appropriate protocols for monitoring the assistance related to the recent floods.

AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in 2006 and again in 2009, I brought to the attention of the House of Representatives law enforcement's new tactic of using billboards to deliver information to the public about wanted fugitives. Today, I will provide an update on progress regarding this effective partnership.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) now has the capability to send alerts nationwide via more than 2,000 high-tech electronic (digital) billboards. The first such nationwide alert posted on digital billboards was activated on August 2, 2010, as part of the FBI's manhunt in a serial bank-robbery case.

The results, according to federal officials, were impressive. Soon after the suspect's photo was displayed on digital billboards, an FBI field office in Virginia received information from a tipster identifying the fugitive and providing, among other things, photographs. The suspect, dubbed the "Granddad Bandit," was apprehended on August 11 in Baton Rouge, LA.

Authorities had been chasing the "Granddad Bandit" for nearly two years. Based on bank videotapes and other evidence, he is suspected of robbing at least 25 banks in 13 states starting in 2008.

"A tip to the FBI made today's arrest possible," said US Attorney Neil H. MacBride in the Eastern District of Virginia. "This is a great example of how the public and law enforcement must work together to keep our communities safe."

Michael Morehart, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Richmond Division, thanked the Outdoor Advertising Association of America (OAAA) for coordination of digital billboards, and also publicity on radio and in print.